## **Protect Our Kids Commission**

Sr. Judge Robin D. Sage, Chair

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## **Dear Commissioners:**

We got off and running with a great first meeting last week. Thanks again for adjusting your schedules to be there.

I think we laid the foundation on which to begin our work by hearing from the agencies and organizations that are already working on child fatalities. It's important that we craft our work to take advantage of what they have already done and not reinvent the wheel.

You may recall that we talked about how much of our Commission's work would need to be done outside the meetings. So, here is our first homework assignment:

- 1) Where do you want the POK Commission to go from here? Is there more information you would like to have? More data? Any speakers you know of that would give us more clarity?
- 2) If you did not get a chance to review the materials under Tab 5 in your meeting notebook, please make time to do that. As you can see from those materials, we have identified similar goals the national Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities (CECANF). Link to its site here: http://eliminatechildabusefatalities.sites.usa.gov/about-us/overview/

The work of the CECANF seems to be falling into these categories:

- A more standardized approach to identifying cases for review;
- Better strategies for defining, identifying, and tracking deaths due to neglect;
- Funding to support further collaboration among law enforcement, CPS, and medical examiners when conducting investigations, as well as to fund more prosecutions;
- Ongoing training to improve the quality of investigations by medical examiners' offices and child death review teams; and

• Public service announcements to increase reporting by the public.

Our charge from the Legislature leads us to another category of work based on prevention:

 Promising Practices and recommendations to reduce fatalities from child abuse and neglect.

We might adopt these categories and set up subcommittees of 2-3 people to gather information and bring ideas/recommendations back to the larger group.

Is this a logical way to organize our Commission work? Do you have other ideas? I am really open to any suggestions about how to organize our work so it will be effective and efficient.

- 4) On the next page you will find a rough draft of proposed Ground Rules for our Commission to use as we go forward. Although we need some process guidelines, I am not attached to any of these rules. Please look them over and see what you think. Have I left out anything we need to cover? Should we write different rules? Make any suggestions you think are appropriate and we can get them together and vote to approve at the next meeting.
- 5) My last question is whether I should investigate some funding possibilities for travel expenses and whether or not that would affect your ability to attend our meetings.

Finally, we set three future meeting dates for: Jan 16, March 27, and May 11, 2015. We'll set additional meeting dates as needed. Each meeting will be scheduled from 10a.m. – 2p.m., unless we notify you otherwise. Please get those on your calendars and plan to be there.

Sincerely,
Rolind Sage

Robin D. Sage

Chair, Protect Our Kids Commission

## PROTECT OUR KIDS COMMISSION

## **Ground Rules**

- 1) For a recommendation to be adopted by the Commission, at least 10 of the fifteen members shall vote in favor of that recommendation. A Commissioner shall be present to vote on any issue.
- 2) Unless there has been a vote on an item in a meeting, the Commission shall not be represented as taking any position on a recommendation.
- 3) Public comment may be permitted at any meeting. Anyone who wishes to address the Commission shall register with staff prior to the end of the meeting, and the number of minutes available to each speaker shall be determined by the Presiding Officer based on the number of persons wishing to speak and the time available.
- 4) Minutes shall be made of the meetings. A summary of each meeting shall be posted on a webpage devoted to the POK Commission.
- 5) All established meeting dates and locations will be will be posted on the POK webpage and DFPS website, and a reminder will be sent in advance of the meeting.